

**ALPLM Advisory Board Meeting**  
**ALPLM Multipurpose Room – 112 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Springfield, IL**  
**Friday, June 13, 2014 – 10:30am**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-chairman Richard Meister called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Ranjan Karri, Paula Kaufman, Richard Meister, Patrick Reardon, Craig Sautter

Phoned-in: Steve Beckett, Leigh Bienen, (left halfway through) Charles Branham, Donna Carroll, David Spadafora, Sean Vinck

Also present: Julia Bachrach – IHPA Board of Trustees; Justin Cajindos – Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor; Dawn DeFraties – IHPA Director of Human Resources; Ted Flinckinger – IHPA Board of Trustees; Kathryn Harris – ALPLM Library Services Director; Carla Knorowski – CEO ALPLM Foundation; Eileen Mackevich – ALPLM Executive Director; Garth Madison – IHPA Chief Legal Counsel; Amy Martin – IHPA Executive Director

**III. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes were approved.

**IV. REPORTS**

**Advisory Board:** Steve Beckett

Beckett addressed the ongoing effort to fill the position of the state historian. Ten applications were received; four of those applicants met minimum qualifications. It was decided on May 23 that one individual would be interviewed on June 27; it was also determined the application process would be opened again due to concern caused by the low number of applications received.

Craig Sautter had concerns regarding how historians would hear about the open position. Paula Kaufman raised the question regarding recruitment for the position. Beckett and Dawn DeFraties informed all that the position was posted on a number of national associations of historians/museums as well as on the state website. Informal recruitments, common in academic circles, had not been utilized.

**Staff Report:** Eileen Mackevich

Mackevich reported that field trips continue to go well for the ALPLM. She would like to add more focus to schools throughout the state. The ALPLM is also planning to create signs in multiple languages. Mackevich reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the museum, which is directed by Director Martin. Many programs are currently being developed; she requests the Advisory Board's strengths and talents be utilized.

Mackevich reported on the collaboration of the 1939 Easter Sunday Marion Anderson concert by UIUC Professor Ollie Watts Davis was a large success. She reported on the collaboration currently in the works with ISBE and the new ISBE Coordinator Linda Brissenden. ISBE and the ALPLM are currently working on a workshop entitled "Lincoln, Race, and Slavery." She called for more collaborations between the ALPLM and other entities – the three U of I campuses in particular; also called for collaboration with members of the Advisory Board.

Mackevich focused on the relationship with the library for the next ten years, giving it a working title: "The Second Decade." She also touched on the five-year exhibits currently being worked on: Carl Sandberg papers, 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood, Global Lincoln Wall, and virtual exhibits for WWI and WWII.

#### **Library Services: Kathryn Harris**

Harris expressed the future of the library was going to be a good one. The staff is working to find ways to make the library work better than it does today; the future is going to be bright and there is room for improvement.

Harris' biggest concern revolved around staff shortages. Harris reported that "Treasures of the Library" is being printed as one of the library's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary events; the book will have a release party that she calls on contributors for on September 23, 2014. Harris stated they hope to have items within the Treasures book out and on display for the event.

Reported that a proclamation was given to the Library by Governor Quinn, proclaiming June 2014 as "Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Month;" it is on display

#### **Collections Committee – Patrick Reardon**

Reardon stated that he has worked with Paula Kaufman and Gary Stockton (who has pulled much of the weight and work) to put together a collections policy that fits best with the library needs; it is a working document that will constantly evolve. Within this document are three policies to choose from:

1. The Library will continue to acquire materials in areas of strength
2. The Library will continue to collect in areas of strength, but the Library would also actively work to address the five areas of weakness: 1) WWII and later; 2) the Great Depression and Illinois' involvement in the Great Depression; 3) politics and government; 4) agriculture and farming; 5) business, industry, and labor
3. The Library will continue to collect in areas of strength, but the Library would also actively work to address the five areas of weakness: 1) WWII and later; 2) the Great Depression and Illinois' involvement in the Great Depression; 3) politics and government; 4) agriculture and farming; 5) business, industry, and labor and would require that the library devote 20% of the collections staff, time, and budget to addressing the five areas of weakness

Karen Witter stressed that the collections policy is critical to the process of accreditation. Paula Kaufman called for digitization of collections. The Library needs to be strategic in how resources are used. It was announced that the Boys in Blue III was being digitized, the Civil War sheet music has been digitized as a part of the Center for Digital Initiatives program.

Steve Beckett asked for a motion to be made regarding collections policy choice number one and a further discussion will follow after a motion has been made; Paula Kaufman moved for collections policy choice number one to be amended as follows:

**"The Library will continue to acquire materials in its areas of strength as a basis for its future development."**

The motion was unanimously approved. The IHPA Board will discuss this policy at its next meeting. The ALPLM Advisory Board will complete discussion at their next meeting.

**Social Media: Patrick Russell**

Patrick Russell reported that while the ALPLM does not have a huge effort in the social media realm, the small presence it does have has seen quite an upturn in social interaction (social media reaches the millennial's [18-25] year olds). According to Guest Services, 20% of the ALPLM's guests are coming to the museum via social media.

- Facebook: Russell took over Facebook in 2011 with 7500 likes; today there are 20,855 likes with a growth of 18%
- Twitter: Russell took over Twitter in 2010 with 500 followers; today there are 5420 followers with a growth of 62%
- YouTube: Russell took over YouTube in 2011 with 81 subscribers; today there are 588 subscribers with a growth of 66%
- Instagram: Russell started Instagram in 2012; today there are 1241 followers with a growth of 62%

The ALPLM's presence on social media consists mostly of Lincoln quotes/important historical Lincoln dates, however, it is not limited to Lincoln history; recognized D-Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Communications: Chris Wills**

Wills reported that 115 E-releases have been sent out this year and are sent to approximately 900 individuals. Wills stated this is on track with last year's 300 that were sent out.

**IHPA: Amy Martin**

Martin reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ALPLM and the five approved projects currently being worked on. The Illinois Gallery exhibit now has a name – "Undying Words: Lincoln 1858-1865" and is a collaborative exhibit with the Chicago History Museum.

Martin introduced Clare Thorpe, who is taking on the position of ALPLM 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinator.

**ALPL Foundation Board: Carla Knorowski**

Knorowski reported that the Foundation Board's \$25 million dollar campaign has been more than fifty percent completed with \$13 million to go. The Board is currently working with the Lincoln curator for a timeline and book on Lincoln that will be published on September 30, 2014; 750,000 copies will be made. The Board was also the recipient of an AT&T grant to help with digitization, as well as an ADM grant to help with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit.

**V. NEW BUSINESS – LEGISLATION DISCUSSION**

Steve Beckett addressed the concern regarding the legislation that was introduced to the Illinois State Legislature in May 2014. Beckett stated that he drafted legislation to separate the ALPLM from the IHPA because he is concerned with the structure of governance within the ALPLM. Beckett submitted the draft legislation to Senator Frerichs and stated he was unaware that Speaker Madigan would sponsor the bill; the bill passed the House of Representatives but was not called for a vote in the Senate by President Cullerton.

Craig Sautter and Donna Carroll both verbally stated they were quite disappointed and upset that Beckett authored legislation on his own without prior discussion with the Advisory Board. Reardon stated he hopes the Advisory Board will be kept abreast of further events going forward.

Amy Martin addressed the legislation. Martin stated she was unaware of the legislation introduced by Speaker Madigan and learned of it in the same way that other Advisory Board members did. Martin agreed with Sautter and Carroll. She stated that the manner in which it was handled was unprofessional, as well as counterproductive for IHPA. Martin stated she wanted to correct a few things that have been falsely reported in the media.

- The media has reported there are unfilled vacancies at the ALPLM, suggesting that the positions could be quickly filled if the ALPLM were run on its own. Martin stated that this claim is incorrect. Positions are vacant for the same reason positions are vacant in other agencies: budget. Martin has filled key positions at the ALPLM since taking over two years ago, such as Research Historian, Chief of Staff, Guest Services Director, Marketing Director, and a Spanish-Speaking Interpreter. Note: There were no employees that spoke Spanish before Martin became Director.
- The media has reported that the ALPLM can be taken away with no disruption or expense. Martin stated this claim is incorrect. The ALPLM is part of IHPA so it can focus on history. IHPA handles day-to-day business while also absorbing deep budget cuts that ALPLM has largely escaped. By taking the ALPLM away from IHPA, resources would be taken away from history and focused on bureaucracy.
- The media claims that the IHPA has taken a two-year delay in accepting papers and artifacts from the Adlai Stevenson family. Martin states this is incorrect. Steve Beckett and Senator Stevenson presented the idea at the IHPA Board only six months ago, with Stevenson reporting that they didn't have a detailed proposal ready for a vote yet. The IHPA has fine tuned the proposal, the Advisory Board has voted on it, and the Board of Trustees will vote on it later this month.

Martin went on to say that she believes there is no issue with the way the ALPLM is governed, as they answer to only one governing board – the Board of Trustees. Martin stated that the Foundation Board is there to raise money to support the ALPLM and the Advisory Board was created to offer advice such as recommending programs, seminars, and report annually on the progress of the ALPLM. Martin reviewed the statutes that state what each board is designed to do. Beckett claimed he is troubled by this structure and defended his move to the Legislature.

Chairman Sunny Fischer and Amy Martin have called for an eight-member task force to be created to look into the structure and governance of the three boards with equal representation from all stakeholders: two members from the ALPLM Advisory Board, two members from the IHPA Board of Trustees, two members from the ALPLM, and two members from the IHPA; Paula Kaufman agreed with this suggested task force. Patrick Reardon stated his belief the suggested task force is weighted against the Advisory Board and called for an outside group to be formed by the Illinois Legislature to look into the structure and governance.

Julie Bachrach called on all members for collaboration to put their focus on the future of the ALPLM. Bachrach praised Amy Martin and Sunny Fischer for their ability to continue to get work done through their collaboration.

## VI. **DISCUSSION**

Discussion continued to ensue regarding the legislation and why it was not taken to the Advisory Board and discussed before the legislation originated in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

Dick Meister stated that the State Historian position will continue to go unfilled; he noted that ALPLM will not get a qualified historian based on the current job description.

Amy Martin asked for the opportunity to see the agenda prior to meetings in the event there is something she would like to add/discuss

Patrick Reardon asked Chris Wills for emails from Chris Wills regarding State Journal Register articles/press releases

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Board meeting adjourned